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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 004187

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/18/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [ETRD](#) [IZ](#) [TU](#) [SY](#) [US](#)

SUBJECT: IRAQ: TURKS PLEASED WITH KORUTURK'S WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS, URGE "PERSISTENCE" WITH SYRIA

REF: A. STATE 129619 (NOTAL)

[1](#)B. ANKARA 3844

[1](#)C. STATE 133156 (NOTAL)

Classified By: Counselor for Political-Military Affairs Timothy A. Bett
s for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) On July 13, PolMilCouns and PolMilOff called on MFA Deputy Director General Safak Gokturk to get the Turkish assessment of the July 5-6 Washington visit of the GOT's Special Envoy for Iraq, Amb. Osman Koruturk (Gokturk accompanied Koruturk). Gokturk characterized the meetings as positive and commented that Turkish-U.S. cooperation has now moved beyond mutual statements of principles to a new, "operational" stage. He believed that the two sides will work more closely together in Iraq, especially on Sunni outreach (according to Koruturk himself, the key to the process--ref b). The Turks perceived greater interest from the USG on Sunni outreach; Gokturk pointed to the Secretary's May 15 visit to Iraq as the first major manifestation of this. He urged our embassies in Baghdad to cooperate closely in this effort.

[1](#)2. (C) Gokturk noted Koruturk's discussion with NEA A/S Welch (ref c), in which Koruturk related Turkey's experience with Syria in 1998. According to Gokturk, Koruturk advised us to create a step-by-step mechanism to ensure Syrian cooperation, and to be "persistent and persevere" with the SARG. PolMilCouns responded that Turkey was only able to create such a mechanism after massing troops and tanks on the Syrian border, forcing Syria to change its actions (i.e., expel PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan); currently, international pressure has not yet produced a similar change in Syrian actions. The Syrians well know what steps they need to take to decrease the pressure on them: Cease support for Iraqi former regime elements, cease interference and support for terrorism in Lebanon and the PA.

[1](#)3. (U) Iraq REOs minimize considered.
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